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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,122	08/27/2003	Hiroshi Katayama	450100-02597.1	4755

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EXAMINER

COUSO, JOSE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/649,122	Applicant(s) KATAYAMA, HIROSHI	
	Examiner Jose L. Couso	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/569,903.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/27/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 24, line 2 recites "coded in MPEG-1/-2/-4", this term is vague and indefinite. The examiner searched through the specification and the cited term did not appear, the specification only mentioned MPEG.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raychaudhuri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,122,875).

With regard to claim 21, Raychaudhuri describes a decoding means for decoding a plurality of coded signals and outputting respective decoded signals (see elements 306 and 308 in figure 10, and refer to column 18, line 62 through column 19, line 6); a storage means for storing said decoded signals (see elements 314 and 316 in figure 10, and refer for example to column 19, lines 10-13); and a select means for selecting a decoded signal corresponding to a coded signal which is in the decoding process of said decoding means, wherein said decoding means decodes each of said coded signals according to the respective decoded signal selected by said select means (see element 302 in figure 10, and refer to column 19, lines 14-17).

As to claim 22, Raychaudhuri describes wherein said decoding means decodes said coded signals according to time division multiplexing (refer for example to column 9, lines 51-58).

In regard to claim 23, Raychaudhuri describes wherein said decoding means decodes said coded signal by motion compensating and predicting according to said decoded signal (as clearly illustrated by element 304 in figure 10, also refer to column 19, lines 14-26 for the relevant discussion).

With regard to claim 24, Raychaudhuri describes wherein said decoding means inputs video signals which are coded in MPEG, and decodes said video signals according to a corresponding decoding procedure (refer for example to column 18, lines 60-62, which discusses the MPEG video signal, and refer to column 18, line 63 through column 19, line 67, which discusses the decoding procedure for an MPEG video signal).

As to claim 25, Raychaudhuri describes decoding a plurality of coded signals and outputting respective decoded signals (see elements 306 and 308 in figure 10, and refer to column 18, line 62 through column 19, line 6); storing said decoded signals (see elements 314 and 316 in figure 10, and refer for example to column 19, lines 10-13); and selecting a decoded signal corresponding to a coded signal which is in the decoding process, wherein each of said coded signals is decoded according to the respective decoded signal selected in said selecting step (see element 302 in figure 10, and refer to column 19, lines 14-17).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ramchandran et al. and Fukushima et al. both disclose systems similar to applicant's claimed invention. Katayama is applicant's U.S. Patent for parent application 09/569,903.

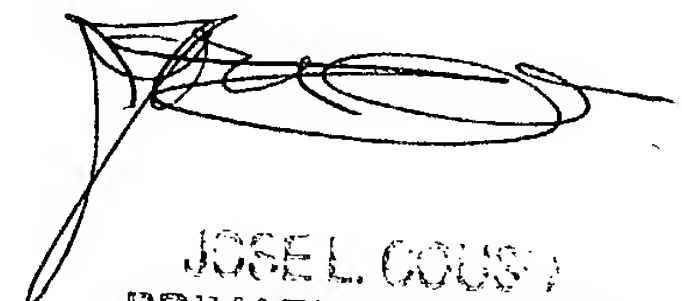
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (703) 305-4774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8576.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jlc
October 18, 2004



JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER